

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing a book supply chain utilizing a network, comprising:
 - 2 a) receiving data from a plurality of book outlets of a book supply chain utilizing a
 - 3 network, the data relating to the sale of books by the book outlets;
 - 4 b) generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering books from a
 - 5 book distributor of the book supply chain;
 - 6 c) transmitting the data to the book distributor of the book supply chain utilizing the
 - 7 network;
 - 8 d) transmitting the data to a book supplier of the book supply chain utilizing the
 - 9 network; and
 - 10 e) forecasting activity in the book supply chain utilizing the data.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data is parsed to match each of a plurality of
- 2 book distributors and book suppliers.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the data is made accessible to the book outlets,
- 2 the book distributor, the book supplier via a network-based interface.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the data is accessible to the book distributor and
- 2 the book supplier only after verification of an identity thereof.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the book outlets, the book distributor, and the
- 2 book supplier each forecast utilizing the data.
- 1 7. A system for managing a book supply chain utilizing a network, comprising:

- 2 a) logic for receiving data from a plurality of book outlets of a book supply chain
3 utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of books by the book outlets;
- 4 b) logic for generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering book
5 from a book distributor of the book supply chain;
- 6 c) logic for transmitting the data to the book distributor of the book supply chain
7 utilizing the network;
- 8 d) logic for transmitting the data to a book supplier of the book supply chain
9 utilizing the network; and
- 10 e) logic for forecasting activity in the book supply chain utilizing the data.

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the data is parsed to match each of a plurality of
2 book distributors and book suppliers.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the data is made accessible to the book outlets,
2 the book distributor, the book supplier via a network-based interface.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the data is accessible to the book distributor and
2 the book supplier only after verification of an identity thereof.

1 11. The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1 12. The system of claim 7, wherein the book outlets, the book distributor, and the
2 book supplier each forecast utilizing the data.

1 13. A computer program product for managing a book supply chain utilizing a
2 network, comprising:

- 3 a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of book outlets of a book supply
4 chain utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of books by the book
5 outlets;
- 6 b) computer code for generating an electronic order form based on the data for
7 ordering book from a book distributor of the book supply chain;

- 8 c) computer code for transmitting the data to the book distributor of the book supply
- 9 chain utilizing the network;
- 10 d) computer code for transmitting the data to a book supplier of the book supply
- 11 chain utilizing the network; and
- 12 e) computer code for forecasting activity in the book supply chain utilizing the data.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data is parsed to match
2 each of a plurality of book distributors and book suppliers.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the data is made accessible
2 to the book outlets, the book distributor, the book supplier via a network-based
3 interface.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the data is accessible to the
2 book distributor and the book supplier only after verification of an identity
3 thereof.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the
2 Internet.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the book outlets, the book
2 distributor, and the book supplier each forecast utilizing the data.